

Appl. No. 10/829,338
Amdt. dated April 01, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 4, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Election/Restrictions:

5 (1) This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claims invention: Each of the eleven figures represents a different species.

10 (2) Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C.121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, none of the claims are generic.

15 (3) Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected constant with this requirement, and a listing of all the claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

20 (4) Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141, if claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

25 (5) Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In wither instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions

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unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Response:

5 *According to the Examiner's requirement, applicant has elected the tenth embodiment shown in Fig.10 of the present applicant.* Therefore, applicant has cancelled claims 1-11, 15-16 and 18 and amended claims 12-14, 17 and 19 for describing the tenth embodiment, in the above AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS section. Furthermore, claims 12-14 and 19 are amended for correcting
10 the grammar. No new matter is added. Fig. 10 is a schematic view of the branched wire lock according to the tenth embodiment. As shown in Fig. 10, the branched wire lock comprises a trunk wire 610 and a branch wire 611, wherein the trunk wire 610 has two coupling sections on its two ends: one is a jack lock on the left-hand side and the other one is an annular ring on the right-hand side
15 shown in the figure.

In addition, applicant would like to emphasize the eleventh embodiment shown in Fig. 11 is included in the amended claim 12. Both the jack lock and the annular are able to couple an anchor object respectively, and the coupling way is
20 shown in Fig.11. The branch wire 611 has an annular ring coupling to the trunk wire 610 on one of its ends and a lock head on the other end of the branch wire 611.

Referring to Fig. 11, the branched wire lock also comprises a trunk wire 660
25 and at least one branched wire (in fact, there are four branched wire for coupling two notebooks, a scanner 620, a printer 630 respectively), wherein each of the branch wire has an annular ring coupling to the trunk wire and a lock head for coupling with an anchor, such as the notebook, scanner, and etc. The trunk wire

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660 comprises two coupling sections on its two ends: one is an annular ring coupling to a column and another one is a lock head, a padlock, coupling to another column. Therefore, both the coupling sections are capable of coupling with anchor objects. Accordingly, the branched wire lock shown in Fig.11 is an obvious variant of the embodiment shown in Fig.10, and both of the embodiments shown in Figs. 10 and 11 are included in the currently amended claims 12-14, 17 and 19 clearly. Reconsideration of the amended claims 12-19 is thereby politely requested.

10 **2. Addition of new claims 20-36:**

New claims 20-36 are added according to the specification of the applicant's invention. Claim 20 is generic of this invention and shown in Figs. 1-11. All the branched wire lock shown in Figs. 1-11 includes a connection wire comprises a trunk wire (numerals 110, 130, 140, 210, 260, 310, 410, 610, and 660) and at least a branch wire (120, 220, 230, 240, 250, 265, 320, 330, 340, 350, 450, 460, 510), wherein the trunk wire has a coupling section at one end (111, 211, 270, 212, 261, 262, 270) and a first lock head (1112, 212, 261, 262, 270, 450, 640) at the other end, and the coupling section may be an annular ring, a lock head, or a padlock. Furthermore, all the branch wires shown in Figs. 1-11 have a second head lock respectively, such as numerals 121, 221, 231, 241, 251, 266, 420, 230, and 440 in these figures. Although Figs. 2-3 only show a portion of the branched wire lock and omit other portions, such as the branch wire and another end of the trunk wire (130, 140), they are all variants of the first embodiment shown in Fig.1 for explaining that the connection wires may be different kinds of flexible wires, such as chains (130) and linkage bars (140) (the first paragraph of DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS section). In conclusion, all the embodiments shown in Figs. 1-11 are obvious variants and are included in the

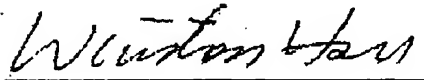
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limitations of the new claim 20. Reception of the new claim 20 is hereby requested.

5 Claims 21-36 further include the limitations of the characteristics and subtle variations of the eleven embodiments in Figs. 1-11. Claim 21 is described in the first paragraph of DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS. Claims 22-23 are shown in Figs. 3-4 respectively. Claim 25 is figured in Fig. 1, 4 and 7-10. Claims 26-27 are shown in Figs. 5-6. Claims 28-29 are illustrated in Figs. 4 and 10. About Claims 30-33, they are figured in Figs. 7-9 individually.
10 Claims 34-36 are described in Fig. 10 and 11 clearly. No new matter is introduced. Allowable of claims 21-36 are requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

15 Sincerely yours,



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Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C.
25 is 13 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 10 PM in Taiwan)